

**Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting – February 8, 2011**  
**Mid-County Regional Center - 2424 Reddie Drive, Wheaton, MD 20902**

<b><u>Members Present</u></b>	Jeannette Felder; Marian Fryer, Tameka Lucas, Ken Nelson, William Moore, Matt Barry.
<b><u>Members Absent</u></b>	Linda Amendt, Janet Yu, Jim Core
<b><u>Staff Present</u></b>	Natalie Cantor, Director, Mid-County Regional Center, Pete McGinnity, Wheaton Redevelopment Program, Sidney Cooper, Wheaton Urban District; Sue Koronowski, Mid County Regional Center
<b><u>Guests</u></b>	Taylor Brown, PATCH, Elizabeth Chaisson, Resident, Harold Weinberg, Weinberg Realty.
<b><u>Call to Order</u></b>	Vice Chair Jeannette Felder at 5:06 p.m.
<b><u>Motions</u></b>	<p>Approved January minutes: Matt Barry, 1<sup>st</sup>, William Moore 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p> <p>Nomination to elect Marian Fryer as Vice-Chair: 1<sup>st</sup> Tameka Lucas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Nelson.</p> <p>Draft a thank you letter to the County Executive regarding the Roadside Solicitation Report and for support of the new legislation requiring permits. 1<sup>st</sup> Matt Barry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Nelson.</p> <p>Draft a letter to Pepco explaining how their non performance during storms impacted the Wheaton Urban District. 1<sup>st</sup> Jeannette Feldner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marian Fryer. Input will be sought from local businesses through Wheaton Local First to include in the letter. Fryer will contact Janet Yu to take on this task.</p> <p>A letter to be sent to the Clean and Safe Team, thanking them for their excellent team work during the snow storms, keeping the Urban District clean and safe for residents and businesses. 1<sup>st</sup> Ken Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> William More.</p>
<b><u>Community Concerns</u></b>	<p>Slow snow and ice removal on streets resulting in dangerous conditions for pedestrians five days after the storm. Questions were raised regarding the responsibility of cleanup in the area near Bally's and Viers Mill Road. Montgomery law requires it is the business' responsibility. Residents should call 311 to report.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the Clean and Safe Team did an excellent job of keeping the CBD clean and safe during the snow storm.</p>
<b><u>Reports</u></b>	<b>Guest Report:</b> Lt. K. Petrarca, Commander – Patrol, Mont. County Park Police. Paroling of the urban district parking lots has been abandoned due to budget cuts. She elaborated on their role which is to take care of all parks, such as Matthew Henson trails, Wheaton Forest Park, etc, keeping them safe for people to use. She

reported that there are very few gang problems in parks. The few adult problems consist of alcohol and vagrancy.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of the Park Police becoming part of the Mont. County Police Dept. as a result of recommendations in a report to reorganize County services. More to come on that topic after the Park Service Report has been submitted to the County.

**Director's report:** Councilmember Ervin will be coming to the MCCAB Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Office of Legislative Oversight Report on findings and budget recommendations for the future.

The advertisement is out for a new member of WUDAC. A new liaison is also needed from the MCCAB.

Natalie Cantor is working with the Office of Consumer Affairs to stop aggressive towing in the CBD where it is not in accordance with the County Code on towing. She also reported that she met with Captain Mitch Cunningham, MCPD, Vice, Intelligence and Gangs Division and he reports that Wheaton is looking good in this area and crime is down.

William Moore reported on the meeting he attended on the Parking Study on January 20 to access the County's future parking needs. Some recommendations include suggestions for shared parking by businesses in order to reduce budgets. There was discussion regarding how this would work, safety standards, charges, etc. There will be more to come on this topic.

**Redevelopment Report:** Pete McGinnity reported on the status of the various activities ongoing, including the B. F Saul development project, the Wheaton Sector Plan, Parking Policy Study, Costco, Pedestrian safety, and BB&T Bank.

**Marketing Report:** Sidney Cooper is working with the design firm to redesign the Wheaton logo and website. She is working with groups, including Strathmore and the Arts and Entertainment group to develop the TGIF program for the summer. She emphasized the need for both the committee and residents to encourage local restaurants to participate as the number of participants continues to decline.

**Westfield:** Matt Barry reported that the demolition for Costco will begin this month, Party City will be moving in near the former Circuit City site, Panera Bread will open in May. Additionally, Elevation Burger is coming. The mall is spending \$300,000 in lighting improvements and \$200,000 in new way finding signage. Their Facebook has been launched.

### **Announcements**

The special exception request has been filed by Costco to bring the gas station to the Westfield site. The Committee might wish to take a position on that at the March meeting.

On behalf of the WUDAC, the chair thanked Taylor Brown for her excellent coverage of Wheaton in the Wheaton Patch

### **Meeting Adjourned**

6:35 pm